

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1312

Introduced by Assembly Member Emmerson

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Anderson, Benoit, Bass, Benoit, Berg, DeVore, Gaines, Galgiani, Huff, Jeffries, Keene, Maze, Nakanishi, Sharon Runner, Smyth, Strickland, Tran, and Villines)

February 23, 2007

An act to add Section 14078.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1312, as amended, Emmerson. Medi-Cal: health service costs.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which health care services are provided to qualified low-income persons.

This bill would require the Director of Health Care Services to increase reimbursement rates for physician services and hospitals under the Medi-Cal program to a level that equals 80% of the Medicare reimbursement rate for those same services and would require the department to make specified determinations prior to a rate adjustment. It would specify that the adjustment does not apply to physician services for which reimbursement already equals or succeeds the 80% rate.

The bill would also require the department to consider prescribed factors in making subsequent rate adjustments.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14078.5 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:
3 14078.5. (a) Commencing January 1, 2009, the director shall
4 increase reimbursement rates for physician services under the
5 Medi-Cal program to a level that equals 80 percent of the Medicare
6 reimbursement rate for those same services. This subdivision shall
7 not apply to physician services currently reimbursed at or above
8 80 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate.
9 ~~(b) Prior to making a rate adjustment pursuant to subdivision~~
10 ~~(a)~~
11 (b) At the time of any future rate adjustment after January 1,
12 2009, the department shall consider the ability of Medi-Cal
13 beneficiaries to access physician services by geography and
14 specialty and shall request data from the Office of Statewide Health
15 Planning and Development to allow the department to determine
16 the extent of Medi-Cal physician shortages, if any, by geography
17 and specialty.